



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

[Redacted box]

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15 JULY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The ten civilians recently appointed to the governing directorate by Prime Minister Ky are apparently being kept away from business of any consequence.

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2. North Vietnam

Indian officials say that Mrs. Gandhi, who leaves Moscow on Saturday, planned to press her Vietnam proposal there despite the cold Soviet public reaction. New Delhi, it is said, is "somewhat encouraged" by the fact that Hanoi has not rejected as yet the Indian proposal. This is interpreted by the Indians as meaning that Hanoi has not been influenced by the negative line of the Chinese.

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On the contrary, in the past several days, Hanoi has been publicly restating its determination to press on with the war in some of the bluntest language used in recent months.

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3. Communist China

We see some signs that the leadership has settled down, at least for the time being.

So far this month, Mao has made another appearance, and Liu Shao-chi is again being represented as his deputy. Also, five officials who dropped from public view about the time of Peng Chen's downfall in April have now re-emerged.

More significantly, major changes have been made in the party secretariat--the powerful executive arm of the party--which we feel the leaders would not have undertaken unless the air had been cleared of political uncertainty.

However, considering all that has recently happened--especially Mao's seeming inability to exercise sure, sustained control--we doubt that the situation will fully stabilize until Mao departs and a successor has firmly gathered up the reins of power.

4. Soviet Union

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5. Zambia

Emotional President Kaunda

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[redacted] seized on an inappropriate occasion--his installation speech as chancellor of the University of Zambia--to castigate Britain for failure to enforce a "moral" solution in Rhodesia and to threaten to take Zambia out of the Commonwealth.

This threat is probably more a measure of his feeling than a forecast of action. His frustration over Rhodesia, however, is heightened by mounting pressure from radicals in his own government, and could boil over into impulsive actions detrimental to Western interests.

Yesterday, in a long conversation with Ambassador Good, he urged the US to develop an independent African policy to replace what he called one "viewed through British spectacles."

6. Ecuador

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7. India

The Soviets have now apparently agreed to supply India with some T-55 medium tanks--the latest export model--as well as additional field guns.

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